Docket No.: 2045B(209409)

<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION</u>

Please replace the Title of the Invention with the following Title:

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-- An Isolated Ligand of Chemerin R--

Please replace the paragraph on page 84, lines 2-14 with the following paragraph:

--Example 16. The shorter C-terminal nonapeptide YFPGQFAFS (SEQ ID NO: 61) has a high affinity on ChemerinR

We then determined the minimum length of the C-terminal fragment able to activate the Chemerin receptor with high potency. Successive truncations of the N-terminal domain of the hChemerin-19 peptide were synthesized and tested using the aequorin assay (figure 25C). Truncations from residue 1 to residue 10 (hChemerin-17 to hChemerin-9, Figure 20 and EC₅₀ values in table 2) did not affect intracellular calcium signaling. However, removal of the Tyrosine residue in position 11 (hChemerin-8) resulted in a severely loss of affinity for the receptor (EC₅₀ of $2 \pm 1 \mu M$ compared to a value of $16.7 \pm 3.2 \mu M$ for the control peptide: Human chemerin-19), and the response was completely abrogated for shorter peptide (hChemerin-7, EC₅₀ of $220 \pm 100 \mu M$). These results indicated that only the last 9 amino acids of Chemerin are necessary for high affinity receptor activation, as the EC₅₀ of the nonapeptide is $7 \pm 0.25 \mu M$, which is in the same range to the affinity of the recombinant Chemerin. --

Please replace the paragraph on page 84, lines 16-22 with the following paragraph:

--Since multiple residues within the last 9 amino acids sequence of Chemerin appeared to be important for receptor activation, we examined the relative contribution of each amino acid of the YFPGQFAFS (SEQ ID NO: 61) peptide in Chemerin receptor activation, by using an alanine-scanning mutagenesis approach. Eight different alanine-subsituted hChemerin-9 analogs were synthesized and tested for intracellular calcium accumulation. As shown in Figure 25D and Table 2, the EC₅₀ of the Q5A, P3A

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and S9A mutated peptides was shifted to higher concentrations (EC₅₀ of 35.8 \pm 5.9 nM, 42.5 \pm 7.5 nM and 48.3 \pm 5.7 nM respectively) as compared with the control peptide--

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